

foresight, and foresight furnishes control. There is first knowledge, then foresight, and then action. But we see that there are barriers both to the foresight and to the action—barriers against which human pride may chafe and rage, but which it cannot break down. Where the foresight is large, the action is restrained; and where the field of action is wide, the foresight is confined. The confident expectations of the power likely to accrue from knowledge, could be realized only by the foresight ever imparting a power of action, and by the power of action having provided for it an available foresight. But there are limits to the one and to the other; where the one is enlarged, the other is confined; and where power is imparted in the one, it is counteracted by a corresponding weakness in the other. No doubt there is great room, as knowledge increases, at once for advancing foresight and action; but still there are necessary limits to both; and all that man may feel his dependence, alike in the one as in the other, on the government of God. Human sagacity and activity will both increase as the world grows older; but both the one and the other will find checks raised to humble them in their very extension. No man feels his impotence more than he who knows all the courses of the stars, and yet feels that he cannot influence them in the least degree; except it be the person who sees himself surrounded by agents which he can to some extent control, but which in a far higher degree control him, and disappoint by their unexpected movements his best laid schemes. The farther human knowledge penetrates, it discovers, with a painful sense of weakness, the more objects utterly beyond its control, and moving on in their own independent KphITC, The greater human activity becomes, it complicates the more the relations of society, and the relations of man to the most capricious of the agents of nature; and

the greater the
power he exerts, he feels himself the more
powerless in the grasp
of a higher power. Increased knowledge should
make him bow in
deeper reverence before infinite knowledge; and
his own aug-
mented action cause him to acknowledge, in a
deeper feeling of
the irresistible might of the action of
the Almighty.
We are now in circumstances to discover the
advantages
arising from the mixture of uniformity and
uncertainty in the
operations of nature. Both the most important
ends in the
government of God, The one renders nature
steady and stable.